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## MEETING NOTES CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY POLICY GROUP Executive Committee Meeting July 2, 2008

Attendees:

See attached Sign-in Sheet

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Longley welcomed meeting participants. Participants introduced themselves.

### 2. **Cal Fed Grant Opportunity Proposal Review**

Dr. Longley introduced the topic, noting that the State Water Resources Control Board is soliciting grant proposal applications for the Water Quality Grant Program. The focus is on drinking water constituents—salts, TOC and nutrients. Planning and research projects are not eligible.

One proposal was submitted for Executive Committee review and endorsement. The proposal, submitted by the University of California, Merced, would address the technical and institutional impediments to implementation of real-time water quality monitoring in the San Joaquin River Basin. Jim Martin summarized the four key aspects of the proposal:

- (1) Address the need for ways of integrating monitoring among entities. The project would produce a stakeholder manual for real-time monitoring programs to use.
- (2) Develop a software platform to facilitate data sharing.
- (3) Refine and develop a more robust model for predicting assimilative capacity;
- (4) Engage private, state and federal wetlands entities and irrigation districts to conduct a pilot study of modeling and controlled releases and produce a report.

The Committee discussed the merits of the proposal. It was agreed that if the monitoring program can be part of the toolbox to be used in implementing salinity management, the project has value and should be supported.

Action Items:

- (1) The Committee agreed to support the proposal; Daniel Cozad will draft a letter of support for Dr. Longley's signature;

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(2) Jim Martin will summarize the Committee's comments on the proposal and provide feedback to the applicant.

## 3. Other Efforts

### CASA/CVCWA Scope of Work

Daniel Cozad presented the draft scope of work. He explained that it is intended to be a living document, starting with some initial tasks and then building as funding becomes available. He noted the need to identify funding partners and that Task 3 now includes the development of a funding plan. Potential funders to be initially targeted are POTWs that discharge to the Delta and agriculture, including agricultural irrigators and processors. Pamela Creedon and Dr. Longley will be meeting with a number of potential participants, including out-of-valley water users. Contributions can be either cash or in-kind services, such as undertaking studies.

The Committee then discussed what would make the program attractive to potential funders. Dr. Longley suggested that a list of projects that are key to various stakeholders be prepared to generate interest.

The Committee then discussed the organizational model and agreed that a simple 501(c)(6) corporation should be formed to receive contributions, enter into contracts, pay bills, etc. The initial Board of Directors will include representatives from CASA and CVCWA; additional Board members will be added as others provide contributions.

The Committee agreed that the corporation should be called the "Central Valley Salinity Coalition."

### Status of Existing Studies

#### Economic Study:

Dr. Richard Howitt noted that the majority of comments received on the economic study were related to the salt loading and salt balance information. He proposed revising the report to remove section 3.1, which includes projections based on unit requirements, and include the non-projection information in other sections of the report. He will also address the specific comments regarding reconciling information and data from different sources and models.

With regard to the non-market survey, UC Davis will put "willingness to pay" into context. A professional editor will pull the individual report chapters together and edit in order to make the report flow better. In addition, the report will include a section on future work to be done and "observations", which will attempt to

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respond to comments received about the assumptions reflecting only current conditions. Future work includes:

- A need for more region-specific information regarding salts in the Tulare Basin and San Joaquin Valley.
- Implications of changes in water supply due to Delta solutions and global climate change, which are broad outside influences on salinity.

The Regional Board will have an opportunity to review the report prior to its release. The final report will be available for the Economic and Social Impact Committee to review on August 15, 2008.

#### 4. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.